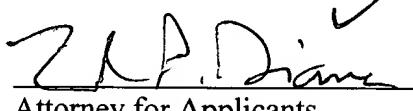


amended this application to reduce the total number of claims from 212 to 71 claims. The Examiner, however, requested in the subsequent Office Action dated March 5, 2002 that the total number of claims be further reduced from 71 to 60 claims. Due to Applicants' concern that there was no support in Section 2173.05(n) of the MPEP, or any other section of the MPEP, for the Examiner to arbitrarily select a certain number of claims before prosecution on the merits could continue, Applicants' attorney conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner on March 14, 2002. In response to our concerns, the Examiner pointed out that we could traverse the multiplicity rejection, as provided for in subsection (B) of Section 2173.05(n), and explain why the 71 claims are necessary to claim this invention rather than the 60 claims. However, in an effort to advance prosecution on the merits, Applicants have canceled Claims 18, 19, and 27 to reduce the total number of claims for examination from 71 to 59 claims.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

20. (Amended) A printing head according to [claim 19] Claim 17, wherein the [recording is executed by discharging ink by the heat generated by said heat generating element] execution means includes heat recording elements for discharging ink.

28. (Amended) A printing apparatus according to [claim 27] Claim 23, wherein the recording is executed by discharging ink by the heat of said heat generating element.